

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action dated October 19, 2005 and the references cited therein. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 in order to more clearly define the invention. In addition, claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by the Lizmore patent (USP 4,636,233). Similarly, Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 stand rejected under § 102 as anticipated by the Hoeffken patent (USP 6,033,454). Claim 3 stands rejected under § 103 as obvious in view of the Lizmore or Hoeffken patent in combination with the Shearin patent (USP 4,323,379). Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended are not taught or suggested by any of the cited references either singly or in combination.

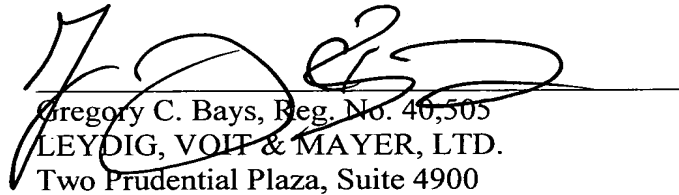
As amended, claim 1 provides for a foldable filter frame that includes a rectangular support frame including four edge elements. Each of the claimed edge elements has at least two sidewalls. An end of at least one of the edge elements that defines a corner of the support frame supports a foldable tab that is receivable in a complementary slot in one of the sidewalls of the other edge element defining the respective corner with the tab being arranged in an inner space between the two sidewalls of the edge element.

The Lizmore and Hoeffken patents do not teach, at least, a tab that is receivable in a complementary slot in one of the sidewalls of the other edge element as recited in amended claim 1. In particular, both the Lizmore and Hoeffken patents teach a construction wherein the tab is inserted in an opening in the end of the other edge element that is defined by the two side walls. With the claimed construction, the slot is not merely the open end of the double-walled edge element, but rather is in one of the sidewalls itself. This makes it easier for a consumer to assemble the filter frame quickly and securely in their own home. As explained in the application, shipping the filter frames to the consumer flat can significantly reduce shipping costs. In contrast, the Lizmore and Hoeffken designs appear more tricky to secure and seem intended to be assembled in a plant before they are shipped to the end users.

The Shearin patent does not address the deficiencies of the Lizmore and Hoeffken designs in that it is a single walled construction. Moreover, there is no motivation to combine the teachings of the Shearin patent with the teachings of the Lizmore and Hoeffken patents because of the differences between their single-walled and double-walled constructions. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are allowable over the Lizmore, Hoeffken and Shearin patents.

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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